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A NEW SQUIRREL FROM GUATEMALA

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Since the publication of my latest report on collections of Guatemala mammals, I have found it necessary to describe a new form of *Sciurus yucatanensis*. This subspecies is based on a unique series of eleven specimens collected at low elevations in Central Guatemala.

Acknowledgment is due to Major E. A. Goldman for kindly comparing specimens with the type of *S. y. baliolus* and commenting on the relationships.

Sciurus yucatanensis phæopus,[1] new subspecies

TYPE.—No. 73106, Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.; male, adult; Secanquim, District of Alta Verapaz, Guatemala; 1600 feet elevation; January 31, 1926; collector, A. W. Anthony. The type is a skin and skull in good condition.

GENERAL CHARACTERS.—Size medium, tail about equal in length to head and body; color dark; underparts normally finely mixed buffy and black; fore limbs and hind feet black; similar in general characters to *S. y. baliolus* but differing in its uniformly darker color, and most conspicuously in the accentuation of the darker marking.

DESCRIPTION.—Color above, uniform ochraceous buff heavily overlaid with black-tipped hairs; a small buffy patch on face above nose; sides of head from base of nose and above eye to ear black, finely mixed with buffy; ring around eye, narrow and dingy whitish; ear, outerside of anterior margin and inner side of posterior margin black, rest of ear like back, basal patch and small tuft at tip buffy; conspicuous black patch at posterior base of ear; upper surface of fore and outer side of hind limbs, fore and hind feet nearly clear glossy black, faintly flecked with buffy; tail at base like back, rest of tail above black lightly washed with white, below nearly clear black, edged with white, medium area buffy. Underparts including underside of fore limbs and hind limbs to tarsus finely mixed light ochraceous buff and black, grayer on throat and lower part of cheeks; lips and sides of nose dingy buffy white.

VARIATION.—The series examined, collected from January to May, does not show much variation in seasonal characters. Individual variation consists mainly in the accentuation of the dark markings; in some specimens the entire underparts are black, others have pure black limbs and feet, a decidedly dark facial mask, and are without pale basal ear-patch.

CRANIAL CHARACTERS.—Practically the same as in *Sciurus yucatanensis baliolus*.

MEASUREMENTS OF TYPE.—Taken in the flesh: total length, 485 mm.; length of tail vertebræ, 240 mm.; length of hind foot, 59 mm.; ear, from notch, 18 mm.

[1] *Phæopus* = dark-footed.

Skull: basal length, 46 mm.; palatal length, 28 mm.; interorbital breadth, 18 mm.; zygomatic breadth, 32 mm.; length of upper molar series, 10.2 mm.

Sciurus yucatanensis phæopus, compared with *S. y. baliolus* from southern Campeche, is similar in general characters but is darker in color everywhere. The limbs, especially, are darker. In dark specimens of *S. y. baliolus* the fore limbs and hind feet are usually blackish but not so deep or pure black as in the Guatemala specimens. The sides of the head are blacker in *S. y. phæopus*, with conspicuous black patches at the base of the ears, which are indistinct or absent in *S. y. baliolus*, the underparts are normally more buffy and less grayish, and the tail is more extensively black than in the latter species.

Besides the type there are four paratypes and seven specimens from Finca Chama, 1200 feet elevation, thirty miles northwest of Coban. The type series was collected in a pine and oak forest at Secanquim, which is about fifty miles east of Coban.